

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY ARA/NC/C:JFMAISTO:JVM

APPROVED BY ARA: HARRY W. SHLAUDEMANN

ARA/NC: MR. DEVINE

ARA/PAF: MR. BELL (PHONE)

S/S:O P. SHANKLE

NSC: MR. LOW (SUBS.)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 039161

EXDIS

E.O.11652:GDS

SUBJT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL INVITATION TO
PRESIDENT LOPEZ

REF: BOGOTA 1606

1. WE DO NOT PLAN SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOPEZ
STATE VISIT INVITATION. AFTER 2000 HOURS FEBRUARY 20
WHITE HOUSE WILL CONFIRM ON IF ASKED BASIS THAT
PRESIDENT HAS INVITED PRESIDENT LOPEZ ON A STATE VISIT
LATER IN THE YEAR, THE EXACT DATE TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED
UPON.

2. AT WHITE HOUSE NOON PRESS BRIEFING, PRESS SPOKESMAN
WILL MAKE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT:

QUOTE

THE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA, ALFONSO LOPEZ-MICHELSSEN,
HAS ACCEPTED PRESIDENT FORD'S INVITATION TO VISIT THE
UNITED STATES LATER IN THE YEAR AT A DATE TO BE MUTUALLY
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AGREED UPON.

UNQUOTE

3. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS HAVE BEEN PREPARED

FOR USE BY WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFTCE:

Q. WHAT KIND OF A VISIT IS THIS?

A. IT IS A STATE VISIT.

Q. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME A LATIN AMERICAN CHIEF OF STATE
VISITED WASHINGTON?

A. JUNE 1972, WHEN PRESIDENT EXHEVERRIA OF MEXICO WAS
HERE.

Q. HAS LOPEZ-MICHELSSEN EVER BEEN HERE BEFORE?

A. HE HAS VISITED THE U.S. ON MANY OCCASIONS, FROM THE
DAYS WHEN HE WAS A STUDENT HERE. HE REPRESENTED HIS
GOVERNMENT AT FORMER PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S FUNERAL
IN 1969. THEN AS FOREIGN MINISTER HE PROBABLY ATTENDED
OAS SESSIONS HERE. HE WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT IN 1974
AND WAS INAUGURATED LAST AUGUST. HE HAS THEREFORE NOT
VISITED HERE SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT.

Q. WHY WAS THE COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT INVITED?

A. WE HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH
THIS DEMOCRATIC NATION IN SOUTH AMERICA. THE
PRESIDENT WANTED TO MEET PRESIDENT LOPEZ-MICHELSSEN
AND REVIEW MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH HIM. KISSINGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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